

Disabilities Advisory Council (DAC) Meeting
Approved Minutes
January 27, 2005
Byrd Building
Richmond, Virginia

Members Present: Daaiyah Rashid, Elaine Senft, Van Johnson, David Wilber, and Cheri Stierer

Members Absent: C. Michael Savory, Donald Sublett, Melvin Fenson, Edward Zeigler, Teja Stokes, Eric Clark, Jesse Chapman, Edward Senft, and Julie Palmer.

Staff Present: Colleen Miller, Sherry Confer, Dee Vance, Julie Kegley and Becky Currin.

Guest Present: Waja Grimm and Josephine Thompson.

Call to Order: Daaiyah Rashid, the Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:20 A.M.

Welcome and Introductions: Mrs. Rashid welcomed the Council and everyone present to the Byrd Building, VOPA's office. Following the welcome, Council members, staff and guests introduced themselves to one another.

Public Comment: Mrs. Rashid introduced her mother, Josephine Thompson who is a foster grandparent from Indiana. She was interested in learning about VOPA and the Protection and Advocacy agency in her state. There was no other public comment offered.

Minutes: The approval of the October meeting minutes were postponed until other Council members arrived. Once there was a quorum, the Council voted on the approval of the minutes. David Wilber made a MOTION to approve the minutes from the meeting on October 21, 2004 with the correction of the word "summed" on page ten. Van Johnson seconded the MOTION and it carried unanimously.

AT Training: Becky Currin, Disabilities Rights Advocate, and Julie Kegley, Staff Attorney, gave a presentation on Assistive Technology (AT). Their presentation consisted of the formal definition of an AT device, the different categories of AT, the steps involved in selecting an AT device and different funding sources for AT. At the end of their presentation, they held a question and answer session. During the Council's lunch break, they were able to view the different types of AT both Julie and Becky had available.

Spanish Outreach Project: Mrs. Rashid gave the Council an update on the activities of the Spanish Outreach Project. She explained the purpose and goals of the committee followed with a summary of the discussions that took place at the meetings.

VOPA Financial Reporting Introduction/Overview: Ms. Miller explained and reviewed VOPA's financial reports. These reports were the "revenue and expenditure" report, the Grant Carryover

report, the Cash Balance report, and the State Appropriations report. Ms. Miller explained to Council that the PAIMI Council is required to receive the financial reports and VOPA has decided to share the same information with the Disabilities Advisory Council (DAC) to ensure that both Councils are receiving the same information. After review of the reports, Ms. Miller accepted and answered questions from the Council.

Executive Director's Update: Following the review of the financial reports, Ms. Miller began the Executive Director's update. She started her update by reviewing VOPA's Progress Report. Then she began to accept questions from the Council on VOPA's Progress Report. Next, Ms. Miller discussed the Litigation Report. She concluded her update by answering questions about any of the reports that were discussed.

VOPA'S Current Goals: Ms. Confer lead the discussion on VOPA's current goals. She explained to the Council that effective October 1 of each year VOPA's new goals, focus areas, and objectives are effective. The Federal government requires VOPA to receive public comment on setting the goals. As an attempt to meet that requirement, VOPA would like to receive input, on the current goals, focus areas, and objectives, from the Council at each meeting.

The Council reviewed the current goals. They all agreed that no changes should be made to the Goals because the goals were broad enough to cover the issues they hear most in the community.

Other Business Following the discussion of VOPA's Goals, Ms. Miller made two announcements. First, she announced the Board vacancies. She explained the requirements for the Board and gave an overview of Board's policy on recruiting. Next, she gave the Legislative update and reminded Council that the VOPA Legislative link is updated often and sent out to different list-servs.

Lunch: The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:20 P.M.

Announcements: The meeting reconvened, at 1:05 after lunch, with brief announcements from Ms. Vance and Ms. Confer. Ms. Confer extended congratulations to Mr. Wilber for accepting the position as Vice Chair of the Council. She also discussed the three Board committees, the Policy, Priority, and Issues Committees. Each member is asked to join a committee and is expected to submit their choice by the next meeting.

DAC Annual Report: Ms. Confer explained that this year would be the first time the DAC will have to submit an annual report. The report is similar to the annual report the PAIMI Council is required to submit and it must be completed by December 2005.

Board Report: Ms. Confer and Mrs. Grimm gave the update on the Board activities in the absence of Ms. Hollowell, the Board's Chair. They discussed the Board retreat that was held in November. Next, they conveyed the Board's decision to reaffirm VOPA's mission statement and continue the discussion at a future meeting along with the Board's desire to make VOPA an inter-connected agency with clearly defined roles for the Board and staff. Ms. Confer ended her discussion by announcing the

Board's next meeting, which will be held on April 26, 2005 in Virginia Beach.

Adjournment:

There being no further business before them, Elaine Senft made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting. Van Johnson seconded the MOTION and it carried unanimously.

Reviewed by:

Disabilities Advisory Council

Date:

April 28, 2005

**Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy
Mission Statement**

Through zealous and effective advocacy and legal representation, to: protect and advance legal, human, and civil rights of persons with disabilities; combat and prevent abuse, neglect, and discrimination; and promote independence, choice, and self-determination by persons with disabilities.